

The Anaconda Aluminum Co Columbia Falls Reduction Plant, also known as Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant, is located two miles northeast of Columbia Falls, Mont. It covers approximately 1340 acres north of the Flathead River, a fishery that includes the federally designated threatened bull trout and the westslope cutthroat trout, a state of Montana species of concern. The Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant operated between 1955 and 2009 and created significant quantities of spent potliner material during smelting operations, a federally listed hazardous waste, as a byproduct of the aluminum smelting process. Spent potliner material is known to contain cyanide compounds that can leach into groundwater. EPA's initial site evaluation indicates that ground water and surface water at the site contain various contaminants of concern, including cyanide, fluoride, and various metals. EPA proposed the site on March 26, 2015 and anticipates final listing in late 2016. On November 30, 2015, an Administrative Order on Consent for RI/FS (AOC) was entered into between EPA and the respondent, Columbia Falls Aluminum Company, LLC. While the AOC allows for periodic oversight billings to the respondent, EPA did not receive any past cost settlement to place into a special account for field oversight. Since the AOC was entered into after Region 8 had set FY2016 Pipeline Operations AOA funding priorities, \$500,000 in RI/FS oversight is currently identified as an alternate need in the SEMS database. Therefore, no funds are available to allow the RPM to open up a new RI/FS oversight work assignment with CDM Smith under Region 8's RAC Contract. In 2016, **Having adequate Pipeline resources to conduct the RI/FS will enable the region to: 1) help convince the community that without an NPL listing the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Plant will not get cleaned up, and 2) provide sufficient oversight of the respondent's field activities in 2016 including installing over 50 wells in the surficial and bedrock aquifers that underlay the site. Site reconnaissance, soil gas screening, and geophysical surveys are also anticipated along with groundwater sampling. Split samples are anticipated. Our unmet need in FY16 is \$500,000.**